

Small Group Discussion Guide

Series: *Between Two Trees* | Part 2: *A World East of Eden*

BIG Idea: Exile from Eden didn't end God's pursuit—it set redemption in motion.

Application: Let your longing lead you toward God, not away from Him.

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: What is a place you've visited that felt so beautiful or peaceful that you wished you could stay there forever?

1. Read Genesis 3:22–24. What stands out to you about God guarding the tree of life? Why might this actually be an act of mercy?
2. The sermon said, *"The problem in Eden was never simply eating fruit; it was the refusal to trust God."* Where do you see this same struggle with trust playing out in our world today?
3. In Genesis 3:20–21, God provides clothing for Adam and Eve. What does this moment reveal about God's character?
4. The sermon explains that *"humanity attempts to cover its own guilt, but God provides the covering we cannot provide for ourselves."* What are some ways people today try to "cover" shame or guilt on their own?
5. Read Genesis 3:17–19. How do you see the effects of the curse still showing up in everyday life?
6. The message says, *"The tension we experience in life is the echo of exile."* Where do you personally see or feel that tension?
7. Read Romans 8:20–23. What does Paul say creation is waiting for? How does this give hope?
8. The sermon says, *"We are not only broken people—we are homesick people."* What do you think it means to be spiritually "homesick"?
9. Read John 1:14. How does Jesus entering our world demonstrate God's pursuit of humanity?
10. The application was: *"Let your longing lead you toward God, not away from Him."* What practical ways can we turn our longing into a deeper relationship with God?

Prayer Prompt: Spend a few minutes praying together. Thank God that He never stopped pursuing humanity after the fall. Ask Him to help you recognize the longings in your heart and allow them to draw you closer to Him rather than away from Him.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2026. <https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe26>